



Islamic Perspectives on the Two-Nation Theory and Pakistan's Independence



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The Two-Nation Theory, a pivotal concept in the creation of Pakistan, asserts that Muslims and Hindus in the Indian Sub-Continent were two distinct nations, each with its own customs, religion, and tradition. This theory was the ideological foundation for the demand for a separate Muslim state, leading to the independence of Pakistan in August 14, 1947. To understand the roots of the Two-Nation Theory, one must explore its grounding in Islamic teachings, the Quran, Hadith, and the broader Islamic perspective. This theory was not just a political stance; it was deeply intertwined with the religious identity and consciousness of Muslims in the Sub-Continent.

The Quran, as the divine scripture of Islam, emphasizes the concept of the Ummah—a global community of Muslims bound by their faith. The Quranic vision of the Ummah transcends geographical, ethnic, and linguistic boundaries, uniting believers in a collective identity centered around their submission to Allah. The Quran declares in Surah Al-Hujurat, "The believers are but a single brotherhood, so make peace between your brothers, and be mindful of Allah, so you may be shown mercy" (49:10). This verse highlights the importance of unity among Muslims, which was a significant factor in the demand for a separate Muslim homeland. The idea was that the Muslim Ummah needed to be safeguarded from external influences that could compromise their religious practices and way of life, which was increasingly becoming difficult under the British Raj and the Hindu majority.

Moreover, the Quran recognizes the diversity of nations and tribes, as stated in Surah Al-Hujurat, "O mankind! We created you from a single pair of a male and a female and made you into nations and tribes, that you may know one another. Verily the most honored of you in the sight of Allah is the most righteous of you" (49:13). This verse indicates that while diversity in human societies is acknowledged, the measure of true superiority is piety and righteousness, not ethnic or national identity. However, in the context of the Indian Sub-Continent, where Muslims found themselves as a minority, the Two-Nation Theory was a means

to preserve their religious and cultural identity, as their way of life was inextricably linked to their faith.

The Hadith, the sayings and actions of Prophet Muhammad (Peace Be Upon Him), further reinforce the importance of Muslim unity and the distinctiveness of the Muslim community. The Prophet (PBUH) emphasized the bond of faith over all other affiliations. In one Hadith, he said, "The believers, in their mutual love, mercy, and compassion, are like a single body; if one part of it feels pain, the rest of the body responds with sleeplessness and fever" (Sahih Bukhari). This metaphor of the Muslim community as a single body underscores the need for solidarity among Muslims. The growing influence of Hindu nationalism and the threat of cultural assimilation into a Hindu-dominated society was seen as a danger to the Muslim Ummah in the Sub-Continent. The leaders of the Muslim League, particularly Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, invoked this sense of unity and distinctiveness to justify the demand for a separate Muslim state.

From an Islamic perspective, the Two-Nation Theory was also rooted in the historical experiences of Muslims in the Sub-Continent. The advent of Islam in the region, starting with the Arab traders and later the conquests by Muslim rulers, established a rich Islamic heritage that flourished over centuries. The Mughal Empire, for example, was not just a political entity but also a beacon of Islamic culture, learning, and architecture. The decline of Muslim power following the British colonization led to a period of introspection and reevaluation among the Muslim intelligentsia. The rise of Hindu revivalist movements, such as the Arya Samaj, which sought to reassert Hindu identity, further alienated Muslims, who began to feel marginalized in the socio-political landscape of India.

The struggle for Pakistan was thus seen as a continuation of the historical quest for Islamic sovereignty in the region. Islamic scholars and leaders argued that the establishment of Pakistan was necessary to ensure that Muslims could live according to the principles of Islam, free from the fear of being overwhelmed by a Hindu majority.

The All-India Muslim League, under the leadership of Quaid e Azam Muhammad Ali Jinnah, articulated the demand for Pakistan by asserting that Muslims were not merely a minority but a nation with their own distinct identity. Quaid e Azam's famous speech at Lahore in 1940, where he declared that "Muslims are a nation by any

definition and they have every right to demand a separate homeland," encapsulates this sentiment.

The demand for Pakistan was not just a political strategy; it was also a response to the Islamic duty of establishing a society based on justice, equality, and the rule of law, as prescribed by the Quran and Sunnah. Islamic political thought, as articulated by scholars like Allama Iqbal, who is considered the spiritual father of Pakistan, emphasized the need for a polity where Muslims could freely practice their religion and develop according to their own values and traditions. Iqbal's vision of a separate Muslim state was deeply influenced by his understanding of Islamic philosophy and his desire to see Muslims regain their lost glory in the modern world.

The creation of Pakistan, therefore, was seen as the fulfillment of an Islamic ideal—the establishment of a state where Muslims could implement the Shariah and live in accordance with the teachings of the Quran and Hadith. The early years of Pakistan were marked by efforts to align the country's legal and educational systems with Islamic principles. The Objectives Resolution of 1949, which laid the foundation for Pakistan's constitution, declared that sovereignty belongs to Allah alone and that the state would strive to enable Muslims to live according to the teachings of Islam.

However, the journey towards realizing the Islamic vision of Pakistan has been complex and fraught with challenges. The interplay between religious ideals and practical governance has led to debates about the role of Islam in the state's affairs. Despite these challenges, the Two-Nation Theory remains a central tenet of Pakistan's national identity. It continues to be invoked in political and religious discourse, especially in times of crisis or when the identity of the state is perceived to be under threat.

In conclusion, the Two-Nation Theory, as it was articulated in the movement for Pakistan's independence, was deeply rooted in Islamic teachings, the Quran, and Hadith. It was not merely a political argument but a religious imperative for many Muslims who believed that their faith, culture, and way of life were inextricably linked to the creation of a separate homeland. The establishment of Pakistan was seen as a means to safeguard the Muslim Ummah in the Sub-Continent and to create a society based on Islamic principles. While the journey of Pakistan has been complex, the foundational role of the Two-Nation Theory in the country's creation remains a significant aspect of its national consciousness.

14th August Pakistan's Independence: A Legacy of Resilience and Determination

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The 14th of August marks a date of profound significance in the history of South Asia: it is the day Pakistan gained independence from British rule in 1947. This moment marked the birth of a nation and it represents the peak of Muslims struggle. Persistent determination by the people who sought to carve out a distinct identity and homeland for themselves. The legacy of Pakistan's independence has continued to resonate throughout its history, yielding narratives of resilience and commitment.

To understand Pakistan's journey to independence, it is essential to contextualize the socio-political landscape that influenced the emergence of a separate nation. The Indian subcontinent was under British colonial rule for nearly two centuries. By the early 20th century, political awareness and sentiments for self-determination grew among various communities, including the Muslim population, which felt increasingly marginalized in a Hindu-majority India.

The demand for a separate nation represented by the All-India Muslim League, led by Muhammad Ali Jinnah, gained momentum, particularly after the Lahore Resolution in 1940, which called for independent states for Muslims in the northwestern and eastern zones of India.

The struggle for independence was not just a political movement; it was deeply rooted in the cultural and religious identity of its people. The narrative of



Pakistan's beginning is connect to complex social dynamics, wherein millions of Muslims aspired for a political entity that would ensure their rights, safeguard their interests, and foster their religious identity. This ideal prompted widespread mobilization that galvanized support among the populace, culminating in large-scale demonstrations and civil action ahead of independence.

As the deadline for achieving independence approached in 1947, the situation became fraught with tension. The British decision to partition India was spoiled by communal riots, violence, and a massive population exchange that resulted in unprecedented displacement; millions were uprooted from their homes as they crossed new borders created by the Radcliffe Line. Amid this turmoil, Pakistan emerged as a reality, forged in the struggles and sacrifice of its people. August 14, 1947, remains stamped in the collective memory of Pakistanis as the day their dream transformed into reality as an assertion of their resilience and determination.

The legacy of Pakistan's independence is a testament to the challenges frequently faced in its succeeding years. The budding state grappled with difficult obstacles, including the integration of a fragmented

society, governance issues, and economic constraints. However, the determination displayed by its leaders and citizens alike became the driving force behind the nation's efforts to establish itself as a viable, sovereign entity. They tackled these challenges head on, demonstrating an unwavering spirit even within trials.

Since its beginning, Pakistan has embarked on various developmental and nationalist agendas that seek to establish a coherent national identity amidst diverse ethnic and cultural divisions. Nationalism as a force in Pakistan swayed between aspirations of religious unity and regional consciousness, further complicating its historical flight. Despite these nuances, the spirit of independence largely persists as a shared franchise among its citizenry, symbolizing hope, determination, and the fight for self-governance.

Pakistan, Independence Day serves as more than just a public holiday; it stands as an annual reminder of the sacrifices made in pursuit of liberty. Celebrations often feature parades, cultural festivities, and reflections on the nation's journey each marked with an affecting appreciation for the freedoms enjoyed and acknowledged

conflicts still inherent within society. Pakistan continues to reinforce its identity, drawing upon the values of introspection, resilience, and optimistic vision for the future.

The legacy of Pakistan's independence is thus multifaceted, stitched together by narratives of struggle, bravery, and unity. It serves as an enduring symbol of what collective determination can achieve and underscores the importance of holding steadfast to national ideals. As Pakistan navigates the complexities of modernity, the resilience that birthed the nation remains the cornerstone of its pursuit for progress, unity, and enduring sovereignty. Such a reflection resonates within the heart of every Pakistani an embodiment of past trials, illuminated by the long-pursued promise of hope and self-determination.

The historical narratives restricting from the independence movement serve as vital components of national identity and highlight the aspirations underpinning the formation of Pakistan. While the past poses challenges in nurturing unity amid diversity, it also presents a powerful chronicle of resilience. As Pakistan navigates contemporary societal and geopolitical issues, the lessons drawn from its intricate history of struggle, bravery, and unity remain relevant and essential for continual growth as a nation. Understanding this legacy is critical for future generations, as it displays the foundational principles on which Pakistan was established and the enduring human spirit in pursuit of a common goal.

